



WILSON COUNTY CONNECTION

Lebanon Mt. Juliet Watertown



January 2017

Volume 7 Issue 1

A Word From Your County Mayor Randall Hutto

Happy New Year! 2016 was a very successful year for Wilson County. We accomplished many goals and projects, including the completion and grand opening of the Wilson County Expo Center. Our county is growing. Our county is thriving. We are excited for the things to come. Like many of you, our office tries to outline goals for the upcoming year. Recently, we put together a list of short term and long term goals for Wilson County in 2017. Short

term goals include filling the vacant Tourism Director and Veteran's Services Director positions; finishing

ing a cleaner, more transparent budget; determining



capital projects including loose ends at the Expo Center, the Veteran's Museum, the Norene Fire Station and School Projects. Long term goals for our office include communicating with Wilson County Citizens more effectively and efficiently; develop-

ways to reduce the tax rate and increase sales tax revenue; eliminate portables at Wilson County Schools to ensure a safe environment for both teachers and students; and plan a county and city government summit where all county mayors and government



officials on every level can work together to achieve the common good for Wilson County citizens. We have set ambitious goals for ourselves this year will full confidence that we can achieve them. Wilson County is made up of the finest citizens in Tennessee with the finest group of County Commissioners. I look forward to working with all of you again throughout 2017.

WILSON COUNTY DISTRICT 25



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District 25

Jim Emberton
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SEVIER COUNTY RELIEF

When Wilson County residents are asked to help in some way, they always go above and beyond to deliver. The County Mayor's Office along with the Wilson County Extension Office and the Sevier County Extension Office worked together to collect gift cards to be distributed to the families affected by the recent wildfires in East Tennessee. Citizens were asked to donate gift cards from retailers such as Walgreens and Walmart. Gift cards are a great way to offer assistance to those in need when donations of items begin to run low. Citizens



were asked to drop off gift cards to the County Mayor's office or to the Wilson County Extension Office. There were over 50 gift cards collected

from the Mayor's Office alone totaling \$810.00. Overall there was over \$1000 raised to send to the people of Sevier County. 1The gift cards

will be distributed by the Sevier County Extension office. The extension office works closely with the local school system in Sevier County along with several senior organizations and will ensure the gift cards are given to children and seniors in need. The Wilson County Mayor's office was honored to be a part of this effort to give back to our neighbors in East Tennessee. A big thank you to everyone who donated a gift card-your donation means more to the people of Sevier County than you could ever know. Wilson County is a great place to live and a great

Stay Connected

Follow Wilson County Mayor Randall Hutto on social media and on our website to stay in the loop on all of the exciting things happening in Wil-



Wilson County

www.wilsoncountyttn.gov



Happy Holidays



WILSON COUNTY FAIR CONTINUED SUCCESS



Some people use a planner to keep track of days and events happening throughout the year. Wilson County residents organize their lives by means of the Wilson County Fair. Though the 2016 Wilson County Fair has come and gone and the holiday season is here, the success of this year's fair continues. Each year the Wilson County Fair attends the International Association of Fairs and Expositions contest program. This year's contest had over 1,468 entries judged by over 50 industry experts. The Wilson County Fair received a total of 18 awards including:

Agriculture Awards

1st Place-Agriculture Programs Promotional Video-Jr. Goat Show Video
2nd Place-Any other Agriculture Program/Exhibit-Watermelon Patch

3rd Place-Agriculture Program Area Beautification-Landscaping Improvements

3rd Place-Non-Fair Related Agriculture Event/Program-Spring Garden Festival

Competitive Awards

1st Place-Use of a Single Theme Throughout all Divisions- "We Want You at the Wilson County Fair" and the featured Agricultural Commodity-Watermelons

1st Place-Unique Contest- Fair Commemorative Print Contest

1st Place-Competitive Exhibit Display Photo Series-Kids Power Tractor Races

1st Place-General Display Photo Single-Flower "Bed" photo

2nd Place-Competitive Exhibit Display Method and/or Prop-New Rose Show Display

2nd Place-Create it on the Spot Contest-

Watermelon Carving (Adults) and Watermelon Head Decorating (Youth)

2nd Place-Participatory Contest-Watermelon Gumball Blowing

2nd Place-New or Unique Contest to Attract Competitive Exhibitors-Gaited Mule Show

2nd Place-General Display Photo Series-Broom Making Demonstration

Communication Awards

2nd Place-Promotional/Advertising Poster

2nd Place- Unique Advertising Specialties/Merchandise/ Souvenirs

Sponsorship Awards

1st Place-Sponsorship Innovation

1st Place-First Time Sponsorship

2nd Place-Sponsorship

Continuity

Best of Division for Innovation in Sponsorship

The Wilson County Fair is a staple in our community and in the state of Tennessee. It is a nationally recognized fair and continues to excel year after year.

Not only does it set the calendars of the citizens of Wilson County, but it seems as though the whole world stops during fair time. It is a week dedicated to fellowship and fun. With a focus on families, the Wilson County Fair always provides a safe, enjoyable environment to gather with friends and family. It is a week dedicated to highlighting accomplishments throughout our community, and not just our community as a whole.

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Our fair does a fantastic job at showing all that Wilson County has to offer but the Wilson County Fair also makes it a priority to give individuals of every lifestyle and background a chance to shine. The Wilson County Fair is also a week to celebrate agriculture in our community and throughout the world. Our fair's main objective is to highlight the importance of agriculture in Wilson County. Every aspect of the Wilson

County Fair, in some form or another, is related to celebrating and preserving agriculture our community. Without agriculture, we as human beings simply couldn't survive. The deep appreciation for farming that the Wilson County Fair instills in all of us is an example to communities all across the nation. Our fair is diverse, our fair is thriving, our fair is fun, and our fair puts Wilson County, TN on the map.

We are so proud of the accomplishments of our fair. However, none of these accomplishments would have been possible without the hard work of the Wilson County Fair Board and all of the volunteers that work continuously to make our fair the best of the best. So many people work year after year to provide the best fair experience possible and there is no way to thank each and every

person enough for their contribution. Here at the County Mayor's office, we would like to say congratulations to Wilson County Promotions and the Wilson County Fair on another job well done!



Wilson County Government will be CLOSED

on

January 16, 2016

in observance of

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

There will be a MLK March

on

January 14, 2017

Gathering at 9:00 AM

Cedars of Lebanon Primitive Baptist Church

201 Beard Avenue

EVERYONE INVITED

Wilson County Office of Veteran's Affairs

Moves to New Building

The Wilson County Office of Veteran's Affairs recently made a move to the new Wilson County Veteran's Memorial Plaza. The Plaza not only hosts the Office of Veteran's Affairs, but after construction, will also be home to the new Wilson County Veteran's Museum.

The move to the new office came at a transition point for former Veterans Director, Bernie Ash. Mr. Ash was recently elected as the

Mayor of Lebanon causing him to resign from his position as director. Before leaving his position as Veteran's Director, Mayor Ash assisted in the set up and transition of the office to the new building/

Ms. Carol Dedmon serves as the administrative assistant for the Office of Veteran's affairs. She now has her own office and will be able to provide veterans in our community with much needed assistance more

effectively and efficiently. Ms. Lindsey Roberts is a new edition to the Veteran's Services staff. Lindsey is working as the receptionist in the office and is a valuable asset to the productivity of the office overall.

Wilson County Government is in the process of hiring a new Veterans Services Director. There have been several applicants for the position. After the initial round of interviews, finalists made a presentation to

several groups of veterans throughout the county along with members of the County Commission. Mayor Hutto will take into consideration the opinion of the veterans when making a final selection for the position. The Wilson County Office of Veterans Affairs is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM.

Meet The **Mayor**

The last Wednesday of every month
at the following locations:

Mt. Juliet Chamber of Commerce
8:30AM to 10AM

Watertown Mi Ranchito
11AM to 12:30PM

Lebanon Chamber of Commerce
1:30PM to 3PM





Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations

February 6th 10:00a & 1:00p
Building C Ward Ag Center

Mandatory Employee Training

4.2.6. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations

The permittee must develop and implement an operation and maintenance program that has the ultimate goal of preventing or reducing pollutant runoff from municipal operations.

The permittee must develop or continue to develop and implement an annual employee training program for employees responsible for municipal operations at facilities within the jurisdiction of the permittee that handle, generate and/or store materials which constitute a potential pollutant of concern for MS4s. Examples of these materials may include, but are not limited to, lubricants, fuels, sand, gravel, soil, salt, pesticide, fertilizer, garbage, trash, clippings, vehicles, equipment, and other wastes. The goal of the training program should be to identify pollutants and prevent and/or reduce stormwater pollution from activities such as park and open space maintenance, fleet and building maintenance, new construction and land disturbances, and stormwater system maintenance.



Municipal Technical Advisory Service

In cooperation with the Tennessee Municipal League

WHERE DO MY COUNTY TAX DOLLARS GO?

There is a large push locally and throughout the state to shop local this Christmas. Aside from supporting local business owners, did you know when you shop locally here in Wilson County you are supporting a variety of other services that are available to every Wilson County resident throughout the year as well? By simply living in Wilson County and contributing to our economy, you play a significant role in every service Wilson County Government is able to provide individuals from all backgrounds and income levels. With the push to shop locally many people begin to ask the question "What do I receive for my county tax dollars?" Citizens seem to easily notice the benefits of city taxes; however, many people have a hard time determining where county taxes are applied. Because of this, we thought it

would be a good idea to give the citizens of Wilson County a little more information on how county tax dollars are used.

First and foremost, your tax dollars go to support **education** in Wilson County. Your tax dollars support schools throughout the county through the Wilson County School System as well as the Lebanon Special School District. Though the Lebanon Special School District collects revenue through an extra tax placed on those that live inside their district, they also receive a portion of funding through county property tax and sales tax revenue (The same taxes that go to support the Wilson County School System). The property tax and sales tax revenue pays for the operation of schools, teacher pay, and other expenses but also goes towards the construction of new schools as the county

continues to grow. To date, around 93% of the total indebtedness of Wilson County goes to schools alone.

Secondly, your tax dollars go to support all aspects of **public safety**. **Wilson Emergency Management Agency (WEMA)** is funded by county tax dollars. The WEMA organization provides ambulance services, water rescue, disaster rescue, EMA planning, as well as public assistance and rescue. Fire related services are handled on the city level and through volunteer fire stations. Fire services for WEMA are funded by state shared revenues. Your tax dollars also go to support the **Wilson County Sheriff's Department**. The Sheriff's Department works to prevent and investigate crimes on persons and property. The Sheriff's Department also serves civil and criminal warrants and patrols county as

well as state roadways. The Sheriff's Department also supplies every Wilson County school with a **School Resource Officer** to ensure student and teacher safety. In short, the Sheriff's department works to keep the citizens of Wilson County safe. Another aspect of public safety that is funded by your tax dollars is our **county jail**. There are no city jails in Wilson County. We are extremely proud of all of our local law enforcement groups from the city to the county and commend the way they work together as a whole. We are also extremely proud of all of our WEMA personnel, city fire departments, and our volunteers. In addition to education and public safety, your tax dollars also go to support the **court systems in Wilson County**. Our court systems include **Chancery, Circuit, Criminal, Juvenile, and General Sessions** courts.

Your tax dollars support the **Judges, clerks, and Judicial Commissioners**. The Judicial Commissioners issue orders of protection, arrests, and search warrants. Tax dollars also support the elected **Circuit Court Clerk** and the appointed **Clerk and Master**.

There are many offices throughout the county that provide services funded by your tax dollars. **Probate court** handles estates that are being probated. The **County Clerk's** office offers a variety of services such as vehicle registration (tags and titles), passports, marriage licenses, notary publics, and business licenses to name a few. The **Registrar of Deed's** office records property deeds and the **Trustee's** office collects taxes from residents all over the county in various areas. The **Election Commission** allows citizens to vote in county, state, and federal elections and also assists with city elections as well.

Other county services funded by county taxes include the following: the **Property Assessor's** office which provides property assessments for our cities as well as the county, **Wilson County Archives** which keeps and maintains historical and permanent records related to the county; and the **Veterans Services Officer** who works to assist our veter-

ans.

The Wilson County **Road Commission** is also funded through tax dollars. The road commission is responsible for maintaining the roads throughout the county. The **Solid Waste Department** allows us the use of the landfill and is operated by tipping fees rather than property taxes, but



the **convenient centers**, placed at various locations across the county, are funded by property tax dollars. Your tax dollars also fund some of the expenses associated with the **Health Department** including salaries and maintenance of the facility. Your tax dollars also go to support the **Medical Examiner's** office.

The **libraries** are funded on a two-thirds basis provided by the county, whereas all three cities split the remaining 1/3 of their respective facilities budgets, which would be the operational cost. The county fully funds the construction of the library buildings and any overall raises given to employees. Of course, the

libraries do a great job managing their systems and fundraising on their own. In addition to providing all of these services, there are **also contributions made to the chambers of commerce, local non-profits, senior citizens, ball parks, sports organizations and recreational facilities**.

At one time, we had

used your tax dollars to fund the James E. Ward Agricultural Center, which is really what you might call the county's park, by way of property tax. We have now made the change to fund that department with hotel/motel tax which would conclude that they would be encouraged to have events that would put more "heads in beds" to help them maintain their budgets. Hotel/motel tax is also used to support **Tourism**. We hope in the future to use hotel/ motel tax to fund Health and Welfare, as well as Recreational budgets.

This is a list of services and agencies that your tax dollars support and is not inclusive, of

course. However, I do hope that it gives you some overall view of how your tax dollars are used. The commissioners have a hard job to determine the best use of our resources, but I do believe the County Commission has always done a great job of getting the most out of each tax dollar brought into Wilson County Government.

Wilson County is in a great position, and we are using the most of every resource available. However, there is a continuous strain on our existing revenue to cover the rapid growth happening throughout the county. Other counties in similar situations are constantly looking for ways to pay for growth, because unfortunately it rarely pays for itself. We know that the citizens of Wilson County are some of the best in the state of Tennessee and expect the best not only in the way of services, but in the way those services are carried out. The County Commission, myself, along with all of our elected officials and appointed department heads will continue to do our best to serve the citizens of Wilson County. This Christmas, remember to shop small and support Wilson County as a whole. We hope this information is both helpful and encouraging.

MLK MARCH

Saturday, Jan 14, 2017

Gathering at 9:00 at
Cedars of Lebanon Primitive Baptist Church
201 Beard Avenue

Continuing to the Lebanon public square,
Stopping by Pickett Chapel,
Concluding at
Pickett-Rucker United Methodist Church

Honoring clergy, sanitation workers,
& Wilson County civil rights leaders

UNITY BRUNCH

11:00 @ Pickett-Rucker UMC, 633 Glover Street

Donations are appreciated
Short program honoring MLK

Unique January Holidays



January 4th
National Spaghetti Day



January 10th
National Houseplant
Appreciation Day



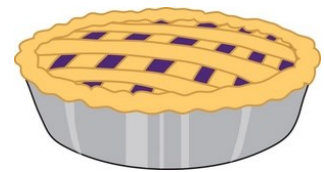
January 5th
National Bird Day



January 19th
National Popcorn Day



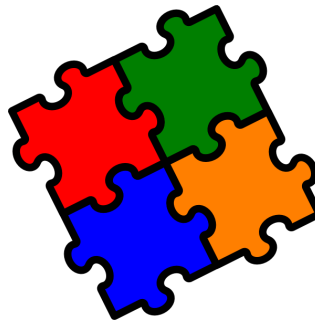
January 21st
National Hugging
Day



January 23rd
National Pie Day



January 24th
National Compliment Day



January 29th
National Puzzle Day



January 31st
National Inspire Your Heart
with Art Day